

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 8-31 are presently active in this application, Claims 1, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21 and 23 having been amended and Claims 6 and 7 canceled and Claims 25-31 added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1 and 3-12 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Flannagan et al (U.S. Patent 4,827,462) and Claims 2 and 13-24 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Flannagan et al in view of Carré et al (U.S. Patent 4,020,278).

In light of the several grounds for rejection, each independent claim has been amended to include the features formerly stated in Claims 6 and 7, which have therefore been canceled. Claims 17, 21 and 23 have been amended also to include the features stated in Claim 8. New Claims 25-31 have also been added and find support in the original disclosure including the original claims. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Briefly recapitulating, amended Claim 1 is directed to an information recording medium in which the recording fields are arranged to increase the storage capacity. To that end, where one recording field cannot be provided without bridging an index header, it does bridge the index header (in the prior art, no recording field is provided at such a position).

As shown, for example, in FIG. 5A, a specific recording field that bridges an index header is made up of first and second sub recording fields. The index header is located between the first and second sub recording fields. The first sub recording field includes a first header field and a first sub data field. The second sub recording field includes a second

header field and a second sub data field. In the information recording medium of new Claim 25, the first header field records address data of the specific recording field.

With the structure described above, the information recording medium provides an improved recording efficiency whereby, although the information recording medium is a rewritable medium, its recording efficiency is as high as that of a read-only medium.

The information recording apparatus of claim 13 and the information recording method of claim 17 use an information recording medium having an improved recording efficiency. Where one recording field cannot be recorded without bridging an index header, the apparatus of claim 13 or the method of claim 17 records it to bridge the index header. As shown in FIG. 5A, a recording field that bridges an index header is made up of first and second sub recording fields.

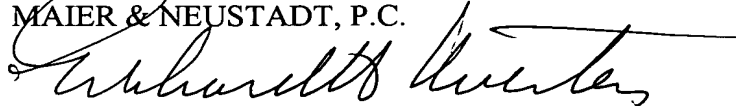
The information reproduction apparatus of claim 21 and the information reproduction method of claim 23 reproduce data from the recording field (which includes including sub recording fields).

Neither of the applied Flannagan et al and Carre et al references discloses sub recording fields as stated in the amended and newly submitted claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding grounds for rejection have been overcome and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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